



Natural Resources Conservation Service
210 Walnut Street, Room 693
Des Moines, IA 50309-2180

November 21, 2008

IOWA BULLETIN NO. IA390-9-1

SUBJECT: PDM – EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM FUND USAGE

PURPOSE. To provide clarification on the use of Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program fund usage.

EXPIRATION DATE. September 30, 2010

The heavy rains and flooding earlier this year caused damage and destruction to all areas of our environment, including soil conservation practices that have been established over many decades. In the past, we have relied on the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) through the Farm Service Agency, to provide assistance to landowners needing to repair damaged soil conservation practices. With the addition of Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds, farmers had an additional source of funds to repair conservation practices constructed under that program.

The 2008 EWP Program is designed to respond to emergencies created by natural disasters, such as heavy rains and extreme flooding. It was thought that EWP funds would be made available to farmers, through a Sponsor, to repair conservation practices where no other source of USDA funds was available.

Earlier this week, a clarification on EWP fund usage was sent out to all states impacted by the 2008 natural disaster. The message clearly maintains ongoing support for EWP fund usage with relieving imminent hazards to life and property caused by floods, fires, windstorms, and other natural occurrences. This includes funding for the flood plain easement portion of EWP.

EWP support does not include the use of funds for conservation practice repairs. It states in the EWP manual, Part 501.4(xiv), "EWP funds will not be used to repair or rehabilitate structural, enduring, or long-life conservation practices or measures that are eligible for funding under the Emergency Conservation Program as defined in FSA Handbook 1-ECP. (See 7 CFR 624.6(b)(3)(i).)" In addition, as stated in Part 501.4 (xv), "EWP funds will not be used for repair or rehabilitation of management practices such as conservation tillage and other similar practices. (See 7CFR 624.6(b)(2)(v).)"

We apologize for any inconvenience or difficulty previous informal guidance may have caused. Please notify landowners who were anticipating EWP funds to repair conservation practices that EWP funds will not be available.

/s/Richard Sims
State Conservationist

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